

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 03827 110859Z

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ACTION EA-14

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R 110900Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1239

S E C R E T CANBERRA 3827

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FOR EA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, AS, US

SUBJ: WHITLAM VISIT

1. I TODAY DISCUSSED PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON WITH SIR KEITH WALLER, PERMANENT SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT FOREIGN AFFAIRS. AUSTRALIANS LEARNED FROM PLIMSOLL THREE DAYS AGO THAT PRIME MINISTER TANAKA WAS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN OFFICIAL VISIT IN WASHINGTON AND MEET WITH PRESIDENT JULY 31 AT SAME TIME WHITLAM ADDRESSED NATIONAL PRESS CLUB. ALTHOUGH HE WOULD NOT WISH TO DETRACT ATTENTION FROM TANAKA VISIT, WHITLAM DECIDED, AFTER PERSONAL REVIEW OF PROBLEM, THAT THERE WAS NO WAY HE COULD ARRANGE HIS SCHEDULE. HIS LUNCHEON WITH SECRETARY ROGERS IS JULY 30, THE ONLY OTHER DAY HE WILL BE IN WASHINGTON. WHITLAM HAS BEEN COMMITTED TO PRESS CLUB FOR MANY WEEKS AND IF IT EVER CAME OUT THAT HE HAD GIVEN IN TO PRESSURES TO CANCEL HIS PRESS CLUB ENGAGEMENT IT WOULD BE POLITICAL DYNAMITE. WALLTER WAS EMPHATIC ON THIS POINT.

2. WALLTER ALSO MENTIONED IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE THAT JAPANESE EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAS ASSURED AUSTRALIANS THEY SEE NO DIFFICULTY IN TIMING OF WHITLAM APPEARANCE AT PRESS CLUB.

3. WILL REPORT WALLTER'S VIEWS ON SUBJECTS PRIME

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PAGE 02 CANBER 03827 110859Z

MINISTER WISHES DISCUSS WITH PRESIDENT BY SEPTTEL.

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